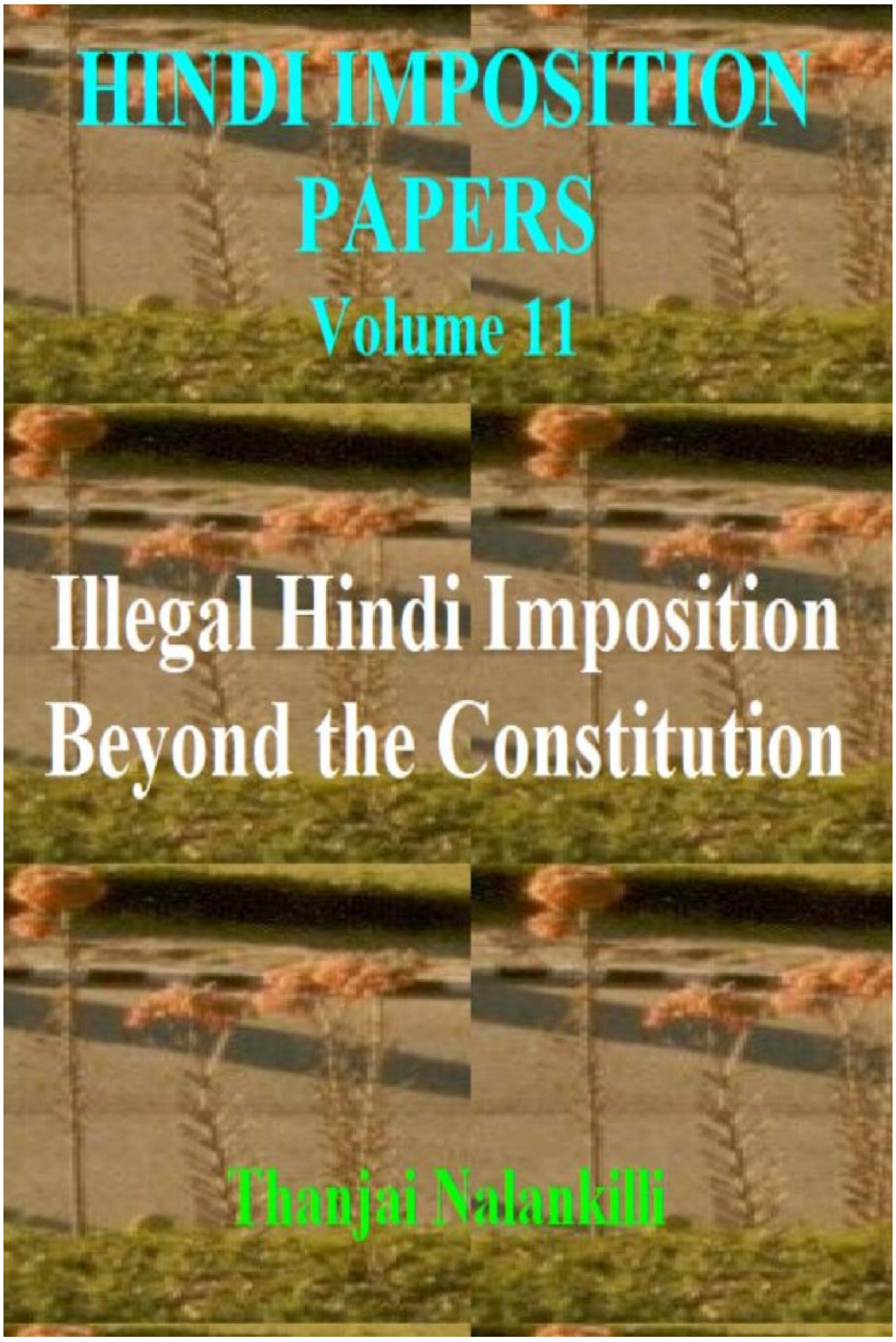

HINDI IMPOSITION
PAPERS
Volume 11
Illegal Hindi Imposition
Beyond the Constitution
Thanjai Nalankilli

HINDI IMPOSITION PAPERS

Volume 11
Illegal Hindi Imposition Beyond the Constitution

by
Thanjai Nalankilli

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Hindi Imposition Papers

All You Wanted to Know about Hindi imposition and More

This fifteen-volumes book contains over 100 articles on the subject of Hindi imposition in India. Researchers, scholars, historians and students who want to get an in-depth understanding of India's language policy may go through these articles one by one. Others may casually browse through these volumes, stopping to read those articles that interest them. You may find lots of interesting and useful information in these articles.

Even if you are reading these articles a hundred years from now, these articles will tell you the history of the development and evolution of India's Hindi imposition policies and opposition to it, starting from 1938 to 2019. This is part of Indian history. India's language problem is an ongoing problem. We do not know where all this will lead to and how this will end.

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Preface

Thanjai Nalankilli

Whenever non-Hindi peoples complain about Hindi imposition, we are told that government is following the Indian constitution and laws. Yet, when it suits the purposes of Hindi zealots in high places of government, Hindi is imposed illegally beyond constitutional provisions and laws. Some examples are presented in this volume.

(First Published: July 2019)

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1.
Please File Law Suits Against Indian Government for Violating Official Languages Act and Rules

Thanjai Nalankilli

[This article is included in Volume 1 also because of its relevance there.]

OUTLINE

1. Introduction
2. Project Names in Hindi
3. Hindi Proficiency Examinations for Government Employees
4. Eliminating English as a Link Language

1. Introduction

I am not a lawyer. What I am presenting here are a layman's views. I hope some lawyers would review them and see if the activities listed here violate India's Official Languages Act and Rules. If any of them do, I plead that some lawyer or group of lawyers file lawsuit(s) in the appropriate courts to stop the illegal activities.

2. Project Names in Hindi

Indian government is naming its projects in Hindi, for example, "Atal Grameen Griha Yojana" and "Ayushman Bharat"; we have listed 47 such names in Chapter 7 of Volume 11. We have no problem if they use these Hindi names in Hindi documents but Indian government is using them in English documents also. So those who do not know Hindi cannot understand the English document. The very concept of two-language formula (Hindi and English) is that any Indian citizen can communicate with Indian government in Hindi or English. So, in my opinion, using Hindi names violates the two-languages formula.

We do not object to Hindi names in Hindi documents. All English documents must have English names; it is all right to have Hindi names in parenthesis as long as Hindi documents have English names in parenthesis. Other language documents must have project names in that language, with English and Hindi names in parenthesis. For example, a Telugu translation of an Indian government document must have the project name in Telugu with English and Hindi names in parenthesis.

3. Hindi Proficiency Examinations for Government Employees

My understanding of India's language policy is that no Indian citizen would be forced to learn or use Hindi. Yet Indian government employees are forced to learn Hindi and pass Hindi proficiency examinations. This puts extra burden on non-Hindi employees. Government employees would be reluctant to sue the Indian government for fear of

retaliation. Can some patriotic lawyer(s) file a lawsuit to remove forced Hindi in Indian government offices?

4. Eliminating English as a Link Language

Indian constitution and Official Languages Act specify that Hindi and English be the official languages of India. All interstate and centre-state communications would be in Hindi and English if at least one of the states is a non-Hindi state. This assures that no one is forced to learn Hindi. A recent panel recommendation is violating this requirement.

A panel set up by Indian government Human Resources Development Ministry recommended that all goods, products, equipment and medicine sold in India, irrespective of where they have been manufactured, must have labels, instructions, brochures and operating manuals in Hindi and another regional language, and optionally English. (Indian Express; August 9, 2016)

Most likely the regional language would be the state official language. We are pleased that at last the state language would be mandatory. However, on closer look, it is a sugar coated poison pill. English is optional while Hindi is mandatory. I am a Tamil living in Tamil Nadu. I am jumping with joy that Tamil, my mother tongue - a language I understand, is there. But look at what happens to a Malayali from Kerala or a Bengali from West Bengal or a non-Hindi individual from a non-Hindi state on a short (few days) visit to Tamil Nadu for a vacation or business. Suppose he/she has to buy unexpectedly a medication and that medication label is in Tamil and Hindi. The same person goes to Maharashtra. The medication label is in Marathi and Hindi. So multi-state travelers have to know Hindi because learning the language of every state he/she is impractical. Some Hindi states would choose to exclude English to force people traveling to Hindi states just for a few days to learn Hindi. There are quite a few Hindi chauvinist chief ministers.

This panel recommendation is **a sneaky, cunning way** to eliminate English as a link language as thus elevate Hindi as the SOLE link language, thus violating Indian constitution.

This illegal panel recommendation must not be allowed to take force. It must be opposed, if necessary, through our courts. All labels must include English and state language; we will reluctantly agree to Hindi as third language in labels because the Indian constitution gives official language status to Hindi.

(First Published: September 2013; Updated December 2016)

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2.
Can Illegal Hindi Imposition Beyond the Constitution be Stopped?

Thanjai Nalankilli

[This chapter is included in Volume 1 also because of its relevance there.]

Hindi is not only imposed according to the Indian constitution and official languages acts, sometimes Hindi is imposed illegally beyond constitutional provisions and laws.

Now and then when a chief minister or senior politician brings forth the illegality and raises the voice, Indian government withdraws the order. As time passes by, another illegal order is issued. Some illegal orders go unchallenged and remain in effect for years, presumably for many more years to come. Examples of such illegal orders are in some of the chapters in this volume.

Why should non-Hindi ministers, politicians and social leaders have to jump through hoops and do somersaults again and again to stop these illegal actions? We have other things to do. Improving the economy, health and education in our states instead of spending time to complain about illegal Hindi imposition. While our leaders have to waste their time on these illegal orders, people issuing these orders and the Hindi zealots are having a good laugh how we scramble to stop these illegalities, some times successfully, some times unsuccessfully.

It is like a thief robbing 10 houses and got caught with stolen goods of two of the houses. Stolen goods from the 2 houses were returned and the thief was let go free. He goes on robbing houses. Others see what happened and some of them go on robbing too. When caught with stolen good, they would give the stolen goods back but continue to rob in the next months and years. Solution is to arrest, prosecute and jail the thieves. That would end the robberies in the town or village.

We have to put a stop to the few Hindi zealots in the higher or lower levels of Indian government issuing illegal orders. The minister or official who initiated and implemented the illegal action should be dismissed, forbidden to work for the Indian government in the future, fined heavily depending on the salary, and all pensions withheld. Only then such illegal actions may stop. Not only the minister/official who issued the illegal order but senior officers (say IAS level officers) who implement illegal orders should be punished to a lesser degree, for example, deny promotions for 5 years. This is the only way to stop illegal orders, not only on Hindi imposition but other areas also.

I am not a lawyer. These are my personal opinions. I hope that some patriotic lawyers would review my views and sue the Indian government if necessary and possible. Also explore if ministers/officials who issue illegal orders (on Hindi imposition or other areas) can be criminally prosecuted leading to jail sentences. If it can be done, that would surely stop the illegal orders.

(First Published: April 2017)

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3.
Hindi Forced on Millions of Non-Hindi Indian Government Employees

Thanjai Nalankilli

OUTLINE

1. Introduction
2. Example 1
3. Example 3
4. A Request to Patriotic Lawyers

1. Introduction

India has constitutionally and legally a two-languages formula. I do not approve it and want it to be changed to "one language formula (English") until all languages listed in the constitution (22 at present) can be made official languages of India, whenever it is. If this multi-languages formula is not practical, then English shall remain the sole official language of India. This is fair to all Indian government employees, it does not favour Hindis and put added burden on non-Hindis working for Indian government. That is my position on official language policy.

Every Indian Prime Minister has said that there would be no Hindi imposition on non-Hindi peoples until all states agree. In my opinion Hindi is forced on non-Hindi employees in Indian government jobs. When I say Indian government jobs, I mean employees in government offices as well as all Indian government enterprises such as Indian Railways, nationalized banks, Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Neyveli Lignite Corporation, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, etc. If population ratio is a basis, about 60% of these employees are non-Hindis; that amounts to several million non-Hindi employees (1 million = 10 lakhs).

2. Example 1

Indian Government's Department of Official Language sent out the "Annual Programme for Transacting the Official Work of the Union in Hindi 2017-18" to managers at all offices of Indian government and its undertakings. It says, "The Official Language Policy of the Union is based on encouragement and motivation. However, the compliance of the instructions relating to official language should be ensured strictly. Ministries/Departments/Offices may consider initiating **disciplinary proceedings** in case of willful non-compliance of the orders relating to official language."

This is a fork-tongued document. First is says government policy is to encourage Hindi use (voluntary), then it urges disciplinary action (punishment). It seems to me that disciplinary action against those who refuse to use Hindi is forcing employees to use Hindi under threat of punishment. It is unacceptable and it may be illegal.

3. Example 2

Indian Railways website (as seen on October 5, 2015) says, "Failure to pass the examination in Hindi of an approved standard within the period of probation shall involve liability to termination of services." If your manager says that you would be terminated (**fired from the job**) if you do not pass Hindi examinations, it is Hindi imposition on non-Hindi employees. It is unacceptable and it may be illegal.

4. A Request to Patriotic Lawyers

Non-Hindi Indian government employees may be afraid to file lawsuits against the government or managers to stop any illegal Hindi imposition. I understand it. Will some patriotic lawyers examine if these orders are illegal? If illegal, some patriotic lawyers should file lawsuits not only to withdraw the illegal orders but also punish those ministers/officers who issued the orders, if possible, including jail sentences. Millions of non-Hindi employees are being harassed, insulted and threatened on the basis of these orders. People responsible should be punished.

(First Published: June 2019)

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4.
Hindi Extremism and Violation of Constitution in Indian Parliament

Thanjai Nalankilli

[This chapter is included in Volume 7 also because of its relevance there.]

OUTLINE

Abbreviations
1. Technical Difficulties in English Translation
2. Extra-Constitutional Hindi Chauvinist Demand
3. Analysis and Commentary
3.1 Hindi Chauvinism at its Extreme
3.2 Speaker Violated the Constitution

ABBREVIATIONS

BJP - Bharatiya Janata Party
DMK - Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam
MDMK - Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam
MP - Member of Parliament

1. Technical Difficulties in English Translation

Indian parliament, New Delhi: On August 13, 2010, a member of parliament, Hansraj Ahir, asked a question in Hindi. Bharatsinh Solanki, Minister of State for Power, replied in Hindi. It is customary that all Hindi speeches are translated to English and English speeches to Hindi. But the Hindi-to-English translation was not available at that time due to "technical difficulties". So members who did not know Hindi were at a loss as to what was going on. Two MPs from Tamilnadu, A. Ganesamurthy (MDMK) and T. R. Baalu (DMK), said that they could not understand the proceedings. Speaker of the parliament Meira Kumar said that the technical difficulties would be fixed soon, but she did not ask the minister to reply in English so everyone can understand his reply (Only the Hindi-to-English translation was not available; the English-to-Hindi translation was on). She could also have stopped (adjourned) the proceedings until the English translation problem was corrected, but she did not. T. R. Baalu responded by saying that he could not sit there like a deaf person and started to walk out of the parliament. His fellow DMK MPs also started to do so. Even at this point the speaker did not ask the minister to respond in English or adjourn the parliament. It seems it was alright with her if these MPs walked out because they could not understand Hindi.

2. Extra-Constitutional Hindi Chauvinist Demand

At this point, Minister of Power Sushilkumar Shinde asked Bharatsinh Solanki to reply in English and the latter started to answer in English. Some Hindi MPs belonging to BJP stood up and shouted unitedly that the reply should be in Hindi because Hansraj Ahir asked the question in Hindi. Speaker Meira Kumar could have ruled that the minister may reply in Hindi or English as stipulated in the constitution. She did not. At this point Bharatsinh Solanki said that he would answer in both Hindi in English. But a member of parliament from Bihar, Hukm Deo Narayan Yadav, said, "The minister must answer in Hindi. We should respect our national language Hindi." Only at this point did speaker Meira Kumar interfere. She adjourned the parliament for 15 minutes to fix the Hindi-to-English translation problem. The problem was fixed and parliament reconvened after 15 minutes.

Since fixing the Hindi-to-English translation problem seems to be so simple and she knew it (after all she had known that it would take just 15 minutes), why did she not adjourn the parliament when the Tamil MPs, T. R. Baalu and A. Ganesamurthy told her of the problem? When Baalu and a number of Tamil MPs started walking out of the parliament for the valid reason of not understanding the proceedings, why did she not adjourn the parliament for 15 minutes? She chose not to be bothered with the Tamil MPs' valid complaint. Constitution says that parliamentary proceedings should be in Hindi and English.

When the parliament reconvened, Speaker Meira Kumar apologized for the inconvenience to some members. She asked all members not to insult the national language Hindi. Can she show us where the constitution says that Hindi is India's national language? She cannot, because the constitution does not say so. Also who insulted Hindi? A member of parliament asking for English translation or a minister replying in English is not an insult to Hindi. They are approved by the constitution.

3. Analysis and Commentary

3.1 Hindi Chauvinism at its Extreme

We need to look carefully into the extra-constitutional demands made by some Hindi MPs and Speaker Meira Kumar's virtual surrender to those demands. First of all, these Hindi MPs insisted that the minister answer the Hindi question in Hindi (although the English answer would be simultaneously translated to Hindi); there is no constitutional basis for it. When the minister acquiesces them and tried to answer the question in both Hindi and English (in view of the fact the English translation was not working), those Hindi MPs again protested that he should answer only in Hindi. This is like a dominant dog getting its flesh and not allowing other dogs have even a bone. What these MPs really want is to get rid of English totally and have everything done in Hindi only. They are trying to do this one step at a time. Will this not inconvenience those MPs who do not know Hindi? As for as these MPs are concerned, anyone who does not know Hindi is not Indian and should not be a member of parliament. Actually this view was expressed explicitly as early as 1946.

On December 10, 1946, R.V. Dhulekar moved an amendment in the Indian Constitutional Assembly. When he began speaking in Hindustani, the Chairman reminded him that many members did not know the language. Dhulekar replied, **"People who do not know Hindustani have no right to stay in India. People who are present in this House to fashion a Constitution for India and do not know Hindustani are not worthy to be members of this Assembly. They had better leave."** [Constitution Assembly Debates-Official Report, Volume 1 (p 26-27), Lok Sabha Secretariat, 1988]

This is Hindi chauvinism at its extreme.

3.2 Speaker Violated the Constitution

Speaker Meira Kumar violated the Indian constitution in this single incident in 4 ways: (1) She allowed parliament proceedings to go on without English translation which is required under the constitution. (2) She did not stop some Hindi MPs demanding that the minister reply Hindi questions in Hindi. Constitution allows ministers to reply in English irrespective of the language of the question. (3) She called Hindi the national language of India. Constitution does not say so. There is no law that made Hindi India's national language. (4) She termed asking for English translation or a minister replying to a Hindi question in English as insult to the "national language". Both asking for English translation or a minister replying to a Hindi question in English are allowed by constitutional provisions. Speaker is supposed to be impartial across party lines. She should also be impartial across language divides and regional boundaries. Speaker Meira Kumar failed in this respect.

(First Published: December 2010)

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5.
Indian President's Address to Parliament in Hinglish: Is it Unconstitutional?

Thanjai Nalankilli

[This chapter is included in Volume 7 also because of its relevance there.]

OUTLINE

1. Power of Hindi Politicians
2. Is This Unconstitutional and Illegal?
Appendix

1. Power of Hindi Politicians

What is Hinglish? English speech/writing mixed with lots of Hindi words or Hindi mixed with lots of English words. We are referring here to English mixed with lots of Hindi words in the context of Indian President's address to parliament.

English version of President Pranab Mukherjee's address to members of parliament in January 2017 contained so many Hindi or Sanskrit words that anyone who does not know Hindi could not understand it fully. We listed 40 such words that appear in the English version of the president's address in the Appendix. I do not know Hindi and I do not understand the meaning of any of those words.

In fact I wonder if President Pranab Mukherjee himself understood what he was reading. He is a Bengali and his knowledge of Hindi is limited. When he was the Finance Minister of India, he told reporters that he could not become the Prime Minister of India because he could not speak fluent Hindi (India Today; May 15, 2009). We remember a former prime minister, Mr. H.D. Deve Gowda, who knew even less Hindi than Mr. Mukherjee, had his 1996 Independence Day address written by someone in Hindi, then had the Hindi words written down in his mother tongue Kannada alphabet, had a Hindi teacher coach him how to pronounce the Hindi words correctly and then read the speech on independence day. The power of Hindi politicians in Indian politics is appalling.

2. Is This Unconstitutional and Illegal?

I am not a lawyer but I wonder if mixing so many Hindi words in English violates the constitution of India and the language acts? The purpose of English documents is to communicate with peoples, businesses and state governments who do not know Hindi. Those who do not know Hindi cannot understand the president's speech and thus it seems like a violation of the Indian constitution. I hope that some lawyers would look into it, and if necessary file a lawsuit. State governments may also act to stop this practice of infusing Hindi into English documents. We should contact our elected representatives to protect our rights.

APPENDIX

English version of Indian President's address to members of the parliament in January 2017 contains so many Hindi or Sanskrit words. Here are some examples. It is not a complete list of Hindi/Sanskrit words in the president's address.

1. Aawas Yojana
2. Ashtalakshmi
3. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao
4. Bharatiya Jan Aushadi Pariyojana
5. Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana
6. Digidhan Abhiyaan
7. Divyang Jan
8. Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat
9. Fasal Bima Yojana
10. Garib
11. Har Haath ko Hunar
12. Har Khet ko Panio
13. Jan Dhan to Jan Suraksha
14. Jan-andolan
15. Kaushal Vikas Yojana
16. Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana
17. Kisan
18. Krishi Sinchayee Yojana
19. Mudra Yojana
20. Niramaya Swasthya Bima Yojana
21. Peedit
22. Sabka Saath
23. Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas
24. Sabka Vikas
25. Saha Na Vavatu
26. Saha Nau Bhunaktu
27. Samanvay
28. Samvaad
29. Samvedna
30. Seekho aur kamao
31. Shoshit
32. Shram-eva Jayate
33. Shramik
34. Shramikandyuva
35. Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan
36. Ujjwala Yojana
37. Unnat Jyoti
38. UsttadandNai Manzil
39. Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana

40. Vanchit

(First Published: March 2019)

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6.
Members of Parliament Stare Dumbfounded as Indian President Addresses Them in Hindi

Thanjai Nalankilli

[This chapter is included in Volume 7 also because of its relevance there.]

President of the Republic of India, Pratibha Patil, addressed the parliament in Hindi on February 22, 2010. That is nothing unusual. Some past presidents have addressed the parliament in Hindi, and some others in English. What was unusual is that the president's Hindi address was not translated to English as was customary. (In past years, president's address to parliament in Hindi was always translated to English, and if in English translated to Hindi.) Members of Parliament (MPs) who did not know Hindi, many did not, sat there as their president spoke what sounded to them as gibberish.

It is a violation of the Indian constitution and related laws not to translate the President's Hindi address to English. Indian constitution and related laws say that English will continue as the associate official language as long as non-Hindi states want it. Both the president and the speaker violated it. As far as the Hindi politicians who dominate the Indian parliament are concerned, constitutional provisions do not matter when it comes to thrusting Hindi.

Who ordered that no translation of the president's speech be offered? Is it the speaker of the parliament Meira Kumar? Who gave the speaker the authority to flout the constitutional provision? Under what umbrella is she standing protected? Of course, the umbrella of the Hindi politicians who stand united crossing party lines when it comes to Hindi domination.

Hindi politicians are pushing the boundaries of Hindi dominance even further, over and above constitutional provisions. Hindi politician are thrusting Hindi into unwilling non-Hindi throats deeper and deeper. Message is clear. Do you want to participate in the Indian political arena fully? Learn Hindi. Anyone aspiring for the most powerful position in India, the prime minister post, better learn Hindi. [President is theoretically higher than the prime minister, but it is a ceremonial position with no real power.]

Former Congress President Kamaraj from Tamil Nadu, when asked about whether he wants to be the prime minister, said, "I cannot become the prime minister. I neither know English nor Hindi". That was in the 1960s. If he were alive today he would have said, "I cannot become the prime minister. I do not know Hindi". Hindi dominance had increased during the past decades.

Prime Minister Deva Gowda, from non-Hindi Karnatak State, asked his aids to translate his major speeches into Hindi and write them in Kannada script. He then read those speeches without really knowing what he was saying.

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, from the non-Hindi state of Andhra, put together a political coalition called United National Progressive Alliance (UNPA), and one day hopes to become the prime minister. One of the things he did to "qualify for the position" was to learn Hindi at his old age.

Indian Home Minister P. Chidambaram, who held the finance portfolio earlier, was considered by some as a potential candidate for Prime Minister after the next parliamentary election. It seems that his lack of Hindi knowledge would hinder that possibility. The Expressbuzz web site, owned by the influential Indian Express family of news papers, wrote on July 27, 2010, "Whenever there was discussion on Chidambaram as a possible prime ministerial candidate, his lack of familiarity with Hindi was seen as a big minus". **A capable minister, who has headed two important ministries, home and finance, may not be able to become Indian prime minister because he does not know Hindi.** This is the power of Hindi politicians.

ADDENDUM:

I remember another incidence of Hindi supremacy and Hindi arrogance that appeared in the January 10, 2010 issue of the Indian newspaper "The Telegraph" published from West Bengal. This is the excerpt from a lengthy article on languages and politics. "A.R. Venkatachalapathy of the Madras Institute of Development Studies tells me how insulted he felt when, at a meeting attended by A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (a Tamil), soon after he became president of India, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pramod Mahajan had stopped him from responding to a request for a few words in Tamil by saying, “He is the president of India. He cannot speak in Tamil.”

[POSTSCRIPT: I want to make it clear that I am opposed to Indian constitution's "two language formula" (that is, official language Hindi and associate official language English). I am for English as the sole official language. Having said that, the point of this article is that even the Indian constitution's two-language formula is violated by the Indian government thus further elevating Hindi and further benefiting Hindi people. Former Tamilnadu chief minister C. N. Annadurai explained why English is sufficient as the official language of India, through an interesting little story. You may read the story in Violume 6, Chapter 2].

(First Published: April 2010)

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7.
Indirect Hindi Imposition Through Hindi Project Names

Thanjai Nalankilli

[This chapter is included in Volume 10 also because of its relevance there.]

OUTLINE

1. Introduction and Examples
2. Is This Unconstitutional and Illegal?

1. Introduction and Examples

Indian government uses every possible method to thrust Hindi into unwilling non-Hindi throats. One such method is to give Hindi names to Indian government projects funded by both Hindi and non-Hindi taxpayers. I have listed 47 such names. This is not a complete list.

We have no problem if these names are used in Hindi reports or announcements. Indian government uses these Hindi names in English documents as well as documents in other languages like Tamil, Bengali, etc. I do not understand the meaning of any of them. You need to know Hindi to understand them. These projects are funded by our tax monies but we do not understand what they are. Is this India or Hindia?

1. Aawas Yojana
2. Akshaya Pathra
3. Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham
4. Antyodaya Anna Yojana
5. Atal Grameen Griha Yojana
6. Ayushman Bharat
7. Bal Swatchhata
8. Bharat Nirman
9. Bharat Sevak Samaj
10. Bharatmala Pariyojana
11. Bhartiya Shisha Kosh
12. Bhavishya Nidhi Adalat
13. Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana
14. Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat
15. Fasal Beema Yojna
16. Grameen Shakti
17. Indira Awaas Yojana
18. Kasturiba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya
19. Kaushal Vikas Yojana
20. Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana
21. Krishi Sinchayee Yojana

22. Mudra Yojana
23. Niramaya Swasthya Bima Yojana
24. Nirmal Gram Puraskar
25. Panchayat Yuva Shakthi Abhiyan
26. Poshan Abhiyaan Swasth Bharat Preraks
27. Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana
28. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana
29. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana
30. Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana
31. Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana
32. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana
33. Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan
34. Rashtriya Sama Vikas Yojana
35. Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana
36. Rozgar Yojana
37. Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana
38. Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana
39. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
40. Sashastra Seema Bal
41. Seva Bhoj Yojna
42. Swachhta Pakhwada
43. Swarna Jayanti
44. Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana
45. Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik
46. Ujjwala Yojana
47. Vidya Vahini

2. Is This Unconstitutional and Illegal?

I am not a lawyer but I wonder if this practice of naming projects in Hindi and using those Hindi names in English documents violates the constitution and language acts? The purpose of English documents is to communicate with peoples, businesses and state governments who do not know Hindi. Those who do not know Hindi cannot understand these project names and thus it seems like a violation of the Indian constitution. I hope that some lawyers would look into it, and if necessary file a lawsuit. State governments may also act to stop this cunning backdoor Hindi imposition. We should contact our elected representatives to protect our rights.

(First Published: February 2019)

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8.
Stop the Lies about Hindi and Sanskrit

Thanjai Nalankilli

OUTLINE

1. Introduction
2. Hindi is India's National Language - False!
3. Sanskrit is the Mother of all Indian Languages - False!
4. Why these Lies about Hindi and Sanskrit are Harmful

1. Introduction

Can the President, Prime Minister or ministers of India abuse their freedom of speech and spread lies and false information on matters of national significance? Can a citizen file a lawsuit in courts to stop them from spreading such lies? We have no problem if they resign their positions in government and propagate whatever false information they choose.

We present below some false information that the President of India and also the Home Minister are propagating, thus degrading some regions of the country, and brainwashing the younger generation.

2. Hindi is India's National Language - False!

Speaking at the 2012 Hindi Day (Hindi Diwas), on September 14, 2012, Indian President Pranab Mukherjee said, "Hindi has been given the status of national language for work at the Centre" (Yahoo News and Asian New International (ANI); September 14, 2012). Vice President Hamid Ansari (on July 20, 2009) and speaker of parliament Meira Kumar (on August 13, 2010) have also referred to Hindi as India's national language in the upper and lower houses of the parliament.

This is absolutely false. Indian constitution says that Hindi is the official language; it does not say anywhere that it is the national language. In fact, Gujarat High Court clarified that Hindi is not India's national language (Times of India; January 25, 2010). The President, Vice President and the Speaker of Parliament should not propagate falsehood. It must be stopped, if necessary by court action. President, Vice President and the Speaker of Parliament should not be allowed to propagate falsehood under the cover of freedom speech. Let them resign their positions and then speak their lies.

If these politicians want to make Hindi as the national language of India, let them bring it in front of the Indian parliament and amend the constitution. May be the amendment will succeed and may be not. Let it be done legally. I wish some lawyer would petition the Supreme Court of India to stop the President, Vice President, ministers, speaker of parliament and Indian government officials from spreading false information. If the

Supreme Court rules so, and these people continue to lie, that would be contempt of court and they may end up in jail.

3. Sanskrit is the Mother of all Indian Languages - False!

On September 14, 2014, India's Home Minister Rajnath Singh said that Sanskrit is the mother of all Indian languages (The Hindu; September 15, 2014).

A July 2014 letter titled "Letter: Celebration of Sanskrit week in the schools affiliated to CBSE", from the Ministry of Human Resources Development sent to all heads of CBSE affiliated schools said, "The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is committed towards the teaching and learning of Sanskrit -- 'the mother of all languages'".

There is no scientific evidence that Sanskrit is the mother of all languages or the mother of Indian languages. Yes, it is the mother of some Indian languages, but not all. Yet this falsehood is propagated not only by the Home Minister but also through schools.

It is, in fact, despicable that CBSE schools are used to infuse false information into the brains of school children.

4. Why these Lies about Hindi and Sanskrit are Harmful

People do believe these lies because they are uttered by the likes of the President, Vice President and other top leaders.

Hindi people think that Hindi is the national language and feel a sense of entitlement and arrogance. Some Hindi people coming to South India for jobs or tourist trips are genuinely surprised, annoyed and angry when local people would not communicate with them in their mother tongue Hindi. Some Hindi visitors complain, "Why don't they know our national language?" Local people are annoyed and angry at the Hindi visitors' arrogance.

Additionally, while Hindi children feel a sense of pride that their language is the national language, non-Hindi children feel that their mother tongue is second to Hindi. This is not good for the non-Hindi languages of India.

Now coming to Sanskrit, again, non-Hindi children, hearing the lie that Sanskrit is the mother of their language, feel a little inferior. Their pride in their language reduces at least a little. (Hindi is related to Sanskrit and uses the same Devanagiri script.)

Having said all this, whether these adverse effects happen or not, the falsehoods that Hindi is the national language of India and Sanskrit is the mother of all languages must end. Lawyers from non-Hindi regions should ask the courts to instruct the President, Vice President and other top leaders and also CBSE schools from spreading the falsehood degrading non-Hindi languages. If they continue to utter these lies even after court order,

they should be punished for contempt of court, whatever exalted positions they hold in the Indian government.

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9.
Indian Government False Propaganda: Hindi is India's National Language

Thanjai Nalankilli

OPENING REMARKS

Indian constitution does not accord the status of national language to any language. It accords Hindi the status of official language. We present here examples of Indian government false propaganda by President, Vice-President, Prime Minister, Speaker of Parliament, CBSE school textbooks and senior officials that Hindi is India's national language. Even the Gujarat State High Court ruled that Hindi is not the national language. But still the false propaganda continues. **Should some one sue in the Indian Supreme Court?** That is discussed in the FINAL COMMENTS at the end. First we present several examples of the false propaganda. (CBSE - Central Board of Secondary Education)

1)

I heard about a television quiz program seen all over India through satellite system. It was hosted by a popular Hindi movie star. He asks contestants, "What is our [India's] national language?" A contestant answers, "Hindi". The host says, "Correct". Applause, applause. Actually the answer was wrong. Hindi is not India's national language. **India does not have a national language**. Indian constitution accords Hindi the status of official language, not national language. Yet many Hindi speakers as well as many non-Hind speakers think that Hindi is India's national language.

2)

There is a recent court ruling about the status of Hindi. A man named Suresh Kacharia filed a petition in the **Gujarat High Court** asking it to require manufacturers of packaged items to use Hindi labels because Hindi is the national language. The Gujarat High Court dismissed the petition and said that the Indian government had not issued any notification conferring the national language status to Hindi. [Times of India: January 25, 2010]

Even after the court ruling, many people go around saying that Hindi is the national language of India. It is one thing for ignorant or misinformed people and TV producers thinking that Hindi is India's national language but when a senior Indian government official refers to Hindi as India's national language, that deserves scrutiny.

3)

Children attending Indian government controlled CBSE schools are brainwashed with the falsehood. In 2016, The book "Hiawatha - The Scholar’s Mother Tongue" is used as an English text for Class 4 (Unit 7) at CBSE schools. There is a crossword puzzle in that

book. Clue for one entry is "This is our national language". It is a five letter word starting with H. Teachers are going to tell the students that the answer is Hindi (no other Indian language starts with H and has 5 letters). Thus a false information glorifying Hindi is infused into the brains of 4-th grade students. (CBSE - Central Board of Secondary Education). This is after the Gujarat High Court ruling. **May be some one should sue CBSE in the Indian Supreme Court** to stop propagating the false information that Hindi is the national language of India.

4)

Indian Institute of Management (IIM) at Indore held a Hindi Workshop on December 29, 2016 to promote the "national language" (Free Press Journal; December 30, 2016). Future managers who would work all around India were fed the false propaganda that Hindi is the national language of India.

5)

Indian **Finance Ministry** was developing a symbol for Indian Rupees (similar to the $ symbol for American dollar). In 2009 an Indian Finance Ministry official said, "The symbol should represent the historical and cultural ethos of India and be widely accepted across the country. The symbol will also have to be in the Indian national language script or a visual representation." What national language is this official referring? India does not have a national language.

6)

At the annual official language conference in June 2010, organized by BSNLC hnenai Telephones, Pradip Kumar Sharma, **Deputy Director of Central Hindi Directorate** said that people must learn both the national language and the state language. What national language? Is this high ranking official in the Central Hindi Directorate ignorant that Hindi is not India's national language.

7)

On July 20, 2009, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Member of Parliament (MP) Kalraj Mishra objected to Environment and Forest Minister Jairam Ramesh replying in English to a supplementary question asked in Hindi. To this Ramesh said in Hindi, "this disease of Mulyam Singh Yadav has reached you", referring to another Hindi chauvenist Mulyam Singh Yadav who had often criticized ministers who know both Hindi and English replying in Hindi. This created uproar from some Hindi MPs that Hindi is not a disease. **Vice-President and Chairman of the Upper House of Parliament** (Rajya Sabha) Hamid Ansari ruled that any comment against the national language would be expunged. What national language? A man chairing over the proceedings of the Indian parliament should know Hindi is not India's national language.

8)

On August 13, 2010, there was some conflict and discussion over a member of parliament demanding that questions put to a minister in Hindi must be answered in Hindi if the minister knows Hindi. During this discussion, not only a member of parliament from Bihar, Hukm Deo Narayan Yadav, but even the **speaker of parliament** Meira Kumar referred to Hindi as the national language [Thina Thanthi (Tamil): August 14, 2010]. May be Hukm Deo Narayan Yada is ignorant that Hindi is not India's national language. Should the speaker of the parliament know a little more about what the constitution says about languages?

9)

Speaking at a function in the northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh in February 2018, **Indian Prime Minister** Narendra Modi said, "Young people in the state are eager to learn Hindi and the state is ahead of all others in the northeast in picking up the national language" (NDTV website; February 15, 2018).

10)

In the some of the preceding sections, we had listed several instances of high-level Indian officials wrongly stating that Hindi is India's national language. Here is one more, from the highest official of the Government of India--the President of India.

Speaking at the 2012 Hindi Day (Hindi Diwas), **Indian President** Pranab Mukherjee said, "... in our constitution, Hindi has been given the status of national language" [Yahoo News: September 14, 2012]. The President is either ignorant or lying through the teeth to hoodwink people into believing Hindi is India's national language. By the way, his mother tongue is not Hindi and his knowledge of Hindi is limited. Pranab Mukherjee told an interviewer on May 14, 2009, "If you don't know Hindi, you cannot be a prime minister" [India Today: May 15, 2009], and thus abandoned any hope of becoming the prime minister of India. He seems to be satisfied with the ceremonial post of president which has no real power. Yet, should he not know that Hindi is not India's national language?

FINAL COMMENT

Either all these politicians and government officials are ignorant or think that if they repeat again and again "Hindi is India's national language" people would believe that. Another interesting thing is that most of the newspapers that reported these events did not mention that what these politicians and officials are saying is wrong and Hindi is not India's national language.

It is time we, the non-Hindi peoples, stop this false propaganda from Indian government politicians and high-ranking officials that Hindi is India’s national language. I ask some lawyer to file a lawsuit in the **Indian Supreme Court** to stop these people from indoctrinating India’s youth with false information. It is not freedom of speech. If

someone in the street or my neighbour tells this I may argue with him/her but will not file a lawsuit against him. But all these people we mentioned are government officials (President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Parliament are government officials too) and they are duty bound not to feed people with false information. So the Supreme Court may put an end to it if a lawsuit is filed. I ask some lawyer to file a public interest lawsuit or some organization or political party to hire a lawyer to file a lawsuit. THIS INDIAN GOVERNMENT FALSE PROPAGANDA SHOULD END.

[NOTE: Although the Indian constitution accords the official language status to Hindi, there is opposition to it in some non-Hindi states. Hindi is not even taught in Tamil Nadu State schools under state government jurisdiction.]

(First Published: June 2010; Updated: March 2018)

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10.
Illegal Order on Hindi at Universities and Social Media

Thanjai Nalankilli

1. Illegal Order on Hindi at Universities

In 2014, Indian government sent a circular to universities asking them to teach Hindi and English as main subjects at the graduation level. The circular further asked the universities to submit their action-taken report to the University Grants Commission (UGC) by September 20, 2014 and also mail it to the "Rajbhasha department" of the home ministry.

This Hindi imposition through universities brought immediate opposition from Tamil Nadu-centric political parties. Chief Minister Jayalalithaa pointedly noted the illegality of the circular. Her statement said, "the UGC circular is unacceptable and **illegal**. The official languages act says no Hindi imposition on non Hindi states" (CNN-IBN website; September 18, 2014). UGC backed down and said that teaching Hindi is not mandatory, it is optional.

We ask that the Indian government official who initiated this action be dismissed, disqualified for any future Indian government jobs and pension cancelled. This is the only way to Hindi chauvinist officials will stop creating mischief.

2. Illegal Order on Social Media Posts (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, ...)

A Home Ministry (Indian Government) memorandum dated May 27, 2014 stated, "It is ordered that government employees and officials of all ministries, departments, corporations or banks, who have made official accounts on Twitter, Facebook, Google, YouTube or blogs should use Hindi, or both Hindi and English but give priority to Hindi." [The Economic Times: June 17, 2014]. Essentially, the memorandum says that English is optional on social media posts but Hindi is mandatory (Twitter, Facebook, Google, YouTube or blogs). This is against the constitutional mandate. Indian constitution requires that all Indian government communications to be in Hindi and English.

There was an uproar in some non-Hindi states. The current (2014) and former Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu and the Chief Minister of Kashmir came out against the memorandum. A number of other Tamil politicians and organizations also opposed it. Under mounting pressure, Indian government withdrew the memorandum.

Why should **non-Hindi peoples have to jump up and down** when Hindi politicians decide to break laws to promote Hindi? The ministers and officials responsible for the memorandum should have been dismissed for violating the constitution and/or laws. But in India it is all right to violate the constitution as long as it is done to promote Hindi. That is the bad news for non-Hindi peoples of India.

(First Published: July 2018)

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11.
Unconstitutional Language Policy along National Highways

Thanjai Nalankilli

[This chapter is included in Volume 10 also because of its relevance there.]

OUTLINE

1. Introduction
2. What is Wrong with Hindi-Tamil Road Signs
3. Why English Highway Signs are Preferred over Hindi Signs?
4. It is Unlawful and Unconstitutional
5. Should we have English Signs in Hindi States?
6. What Shall We Do?
7. Punish the Lawbreakers
8. Refusal to Correct or Repeat Offense

1. Introduction

National Highways had signs in English and the state language. Then Hindi was added to it although there was opposition to it in some non-Hindi states. Recently, in some parts of the Tamil Nadu State, signs are posted in Hindi and the state language Tamil only; for example, National Highway in Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu in 2014. Notice that there is no English. This may be the situation in some other states also or would soon be, unless this ILLEGAL action is stopped now.

2. What is Wrong with Hindi-Tamil Road Signs

Tamil travelers within Tamil Nadu would have no problem if Indian National Highway road signs are in Tamil and Hindi. They can read Tamil. What about travelers from Karnataka (Kannada speakers) or from West Bengal (Bengali speakers) or from other non-Hindi states? They would be at a loss if they do not know Tamil or Hindi. If they also have to travel through Andhra Predesh, they would have to know either Telugu (the state language) or Hindi. So travelers from non-Hindi states must know all the state languages they pass through or Hindi. Thus knowledge of Hindi becomes essential if you ever have to travel outside of your own state. **This is Hindi imposition.** This is ILLEGAL under the various laws enacted by parliament over the years (discussed in some detail in Section 4 of this article).

The signboard in the photo has some important information such as phone number to local hospital, ambulance and police station. **Not being able to read the information could be life-or-death in an emergency situation.**

If the national highway signs are only in the state language, how will out-of-state travelers understand them. There should be English language road signs. Does it not

require knowledge of English? All you are doing is requiring a knowledge of English instead of Hindi. True. Most people from non-Hindi states, especially in southern and eastern India, prefer English over Hindi. Why?

3. Why English Highway Signs are Preferred over Hindi Signs?

Why do most people from non-Hindi states, especially in southern and eastern India, prefer English over Hindi? Reasons are two fold.

(1) Most non-Hindi people in south and east know English better than Hindi. I am not saying every non-Hindi person from these regions knows English. Absolutely not. More people in south and east know English than Hindi. I may be correct to say that anyone who knows Hindi in the south or east also know English. That is why we want English signs on national highways throughout India.

(2) With knowledge of English, you can not only travel to all states in India, you can also travel to any major city in the world, whether it is New York in America, or Tokyo in Japan, or Berlin in Germany or Moscow in Russia. So, what is the need for Hindi? None. Hindi is an unnecessary burden on non-Hindi peoples of India.

Not only English road signs makes sense, it is also the law. Posting signs in Hindi and the state language only (without English) is UNLAWFUL and UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

4. It is Unlawful and Unconstitutional

Indian constitution and several Official Language Acts (laws) passed by Indian parliament guarantees the right of non-Hindi peoples to communicate with the Indian government in English. This includes the right to have national highway signs in English anywhere in India. State governments can put their signs in any language they choose but Indian government institutions must have English signs. This includes signs, boards and instructions in all Indian government institutions including central government offices, banks, insurance companies, post offices, railway stations, airports and national highways. English signs should be posted not only in non-Hindi states but also in Hindi states for the benefit of non-Hindi travelers to those states.

This right of English signs in guaranteed under the Indian constitution and laws and the Indian government cannot remove English in National Highways or other Indian government institutions. That is unlawful and illegal

If the government wants to change the Hindi-English two-language policy to Hindi only one-language policy, it has to pass new laws in the parliament or amend the Indian constitution, as appropriate. Until that time, English signs must stay.

5. Should we have English Signs in Hindi States?

English signs should be posted not only in non-Hindi states but also in Hindi states for the benefit of non-Hindi travelers to those states. If Hindi states are so averse to English signs, they may secede from India and form their own country and have a one-language (Hindi) policy. As long as they are part of India, they should obey the constitution and laws or pass a new Hindi-only law in the parliament.

6. What Shall We Do?

What can we do to put back English signs in National Highways? It seems that English signs are removed in only a few places. It is extremely important that we stop it right now. Otherwise English signs will be removed throughout India. Once Highways are done, English signs would be removed one by one from post offices, railway stations, airports, banks, insurance companies, etc. This may take 10 or 20 years but will be done. So it is important that we stop it and reverse it NOW.

What can we do? Here are my suggestions:

#1) Not many people know that English signs are removed from some National Highways. It is not reported in major newspapers. Write to your favourite politicians and ask them to complain to the Prime Minister and President of India. Letters from popular regional politicians could change the situation. Remember that when, in May 2014, the Indian Government issued a memorandum that government postings in social media, like Facebook, Twitter, may be doe in English and Hindi, or Hindi only, there was an outcry from Tamil Nadu political leaders including the former and present chief ministers. Kashmir chief minister also came out against it. Responding to the outcry, Prime Minister's office issued a statement that the memorandum was misunderstood and that both English and Hindi would be used.

#2) Write to Members of Parliament (MPs) to raise the issue in parliament.

#3) If #1 and #2 do not happen, arrange peaceful public demonstrations. 50 people demonstrating in just one city may or may not help because newspapers may not report it. So if possible, coordinate demonstrations in at least a dozen cities each with at least a few hundred people. If possible arrange demonstrations in several non-Hindi states. This would catch the attention of newspapers and politicians. It is important that demonstrations are peaceful and does not inconvenience people by marching through streets blocking traffic, etc. Such demonstrations will turn the people against such demonstrations and be counter-productive.

After #1, 2 and 3, or simultaneously, petition the high court or supreme court to ask the Indian government to obey the law and put back the English signs and **also restrain the Indian government from removing English signs from Indian government institutions in the future.** I am not a lawyer but I think the such lawsuits may be filed by any citizen or state government. Of course state governments have more resources and do it better but private petitions may be filed.

7. Punish the Lawbreakers

It is not enough to put back the English signs along National Highways. The government official who ordered the removal should be punished. If the order came from a minister, the minister should be asked to resign or dismissed. If the order came from an official, he/she should be dismissed and the information given to news organizations so that we know that the culprit is punished. This would be a warning to other officials not to issue illegal orders. This punishment phase is important to prevent future illegal Hindi imposition.

What if the order came from the Prime Minister? Should he/she resign? It would be a good example if he/she resigns but asking the highest elected official to resign over highway signs may be a little too much. We will make a one-time exception. He/she may issue a public apology and promise that he/she would never issue an unlawful order.

8. Refusal to Correct or Repeat Offense

REFUSAL TO CORRECT: Suppose the government refuses to put back the English signs even if the Supreme Court finds it illegal to remove the signs? Then there are constitutional grounds for the President of India to dismiss the government. The President may then ask someone else to show majority support in parliament and become the Prime Minister, or call for a new parliamentary election.

REPEAT OFFENSE: Suppose the government puts back the sign along Highways under supreme court order, but, after a few months, removes English signs in railway stations or in some other ways violate the official languages acts, what then? I believe that the President of India has sufficient grounds to dismiss the government. Will the President do it?

The function of the government (administration) is to act according to the Constitution of India and laws passed by the parliament. It cannot amend the constitution or make new laws. Only the parliament can do that.

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